REMARKS

Claims 1-54 are currently pending in the application. As a result of this amendment, claims 2, 5-6, 10, 15, 35-36, 44, 49, and 51 have been amended, while claims 1 and 37-42 have been canceled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 35-41 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Franz (US 6,856,344). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 37 and 38 and dependent claims 39-41 have been canceled, while dependent claims 2 and 5 have been amended to depend on claim 32 and claim 14, respectively.

The Applicant contends that the Franz patent does not disclose or suggest at least the features "capturing identification data about a driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area; reading a number on a vehicle number plate of the vehicle being driven into the first area; and based on captured identification data about the driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area, captured number plate data, and driver identification data identifying drivers who are permitted to drive vehicles into the first area, determining whether the driver is permitted to drive the vehicle into the first area" as defined by claim 14.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-7, 35-36, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 14, and claim 51, which depends from claim 43,

are patentable over the Franz patent and that such claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102, in view of the above arguments and amendments, are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10-16, 18-21, 25-29, 32-34, 42-43 and 45-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franz (USP 6,856,344) in view of Bazakos et al (USP 7,183,895). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 42 has been canceled.

The Applicant respectfully contends that the earliest filing date of Bazakos et al. is **5 September 2003**, whereas the present application claims priority from an Australian application no. 2003900048 with a filing date of **7 January 2003**. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Bazakos et al. is not relevant prior art and requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

As indicated by the Examiner, the Franz patent does not disclose or suggest at least the features "capturing identification data about a driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area; reading a number on a vehicle number plate of the vehicle being driven into the first area; and based on captured identification data about the driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area, captured number plate data, and driver identification data identifying drivers who are permitted to drive vehicles into the first area, determining whether the driver is permitted to drive the vehicle into the first area" as defined by claim 14 or 43.

In light of the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-16, 18-21, 25-29, 32-34, 43 and 45-46, which depend directly or indirectly on claims 14 or 43, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 21, 23-24 and 47-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franz in view of Bazakos et al, further in view of Seal et al (US 6,549,118). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, the Applicant contends that the earliest filing date of Bazakos et al. is **5 September 2003**, whereas the present application claims priority from Australian application no. 2003900048 with a filing date of **7 January 2003**. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Bazakos et al. is not relevant prior art.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Franz patent and the Seal patent, either alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least the features "capturing identification data about a driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area; reading a number on a vehicle number plate of the vehicle being driven into the first area; and based on captured identification data about the driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area, captured number plate data, and driver identification data identifying drivers who are permitted to drive vehicles into the first area, determining whether the driver is permitted to drive the vehicle into the first area" as defined by claim 14.

In accordance with the above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21, 23-24, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 14, and claims 47-48, which depend directly or indirectly on claim 43, are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-9, 30 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franz in view of Tilsley (US 6,970,576). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Franz patent or the Tilsley et al. patent, either alone or in combination, do not at least disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed features "capturing identification data about a driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area; and based on captured identification data about the driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area, captured number plate data, and driver identification data identifying drivers who are permitted to drive vehicles into the first area, determining whether the driver is permitted to drive the vehicle into the first area" as defined by claim 14.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-9, and 30, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 14, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 17, 31, 49-50, and 52-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franz in view of Bazakos et al, further in view of Tilsley. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant contends that the earliest filing date of Bazakos et al. is **5 September 2003**, whereas the present application claims priority from an Australian application no. 2003900048 with a filing date of **7 January 2003**. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Bazakos et al. is not relevant prior art.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Franz patent or the Tilsley et al.

patent, either alone or in combination, do not at least disclose or suggest the features "capturing identification data about a driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area; and based on captured identification data about the driver who is driving the vehicle into the first area, captured number plate data, and driver identification data identifying drivers who are permitted to drive vehicles into the fist area, determining whether the driver is permitted to drive the vehicle into the first area" as defined by claim 14.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17 and 31, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 14, and claims 49-50, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 43, and claims 52-54 are in condition for allowance.
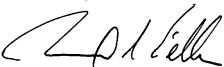
Therefore, reconsideration of the clam rejections under 35 USC § 103 is respectfully requested as the Applicant believes all pending claims to be in condition for allowance.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: <u>August 31, 2007</u>   By: _____

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